

COMMITTEE RULES OF PROCEDURE
FOR THE
104TH CONGRESS
OF THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JANUARY 11, 1995



JANUARY 11, 1995.—Printed for the use of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1995

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COMMITTEE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

(Adopted January 11, 1995)

“ RULE 1—APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES

The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day is a motion of high privilege in committees and subcommittees. Each subcommittee of the committee is a part of the committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the committee and to its rules so far as applicable.

RULE 2—COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

REGULAR AND ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

(a)(1) The regular meeting day for the committee shall be at 10 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in such place as the chairman may designate. However, the chairman may dispense with a regular Tuesday meeting of the committee.

(2) The chairman of the committee may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the committee or for the conduct of other committee business. The committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to that call of the chairman.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(b)(1) The chairman, in the case of a hearing to be conducted by the committee, and the subcommittee chairman, in the case of a hearing to be conducted by a subcommittee, shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing unless the committee or the subcommittee determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing at an earlier date. In the latter event, the chairman or the subcommittee chairman, as the case may be, shall make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the committee shall promptly notify the Daily Clerk of the Congressional Record and the committee scheduling service of the House Information Systems as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(2) Meetings and hearings of the committee and each of its subcommittees shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of House rule XI.

QUORUM AND ROLLCALLS

(c)(1) A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for business and a majority of the members of any subcommittee shall constitute a quorum thereof for business, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(2) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House of Representatives unless a majority of the committee was actually present.

(3) There shall be kept in writing a record of the proceedings of the committee and each of its subcommittees, including a record of the votes on any question on which a rollcall is demanded. The result of each such rollcall vote shall be made available by the committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the committee. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members present but not voting.

(4) A record vote may be demanded by one-fifth of the members present or, in the apparent absence of a quorum, by any one member. With respect to any rollcall vote on any motion to amend or report, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the report of the committee on the bill or resolution.

(5) No vote by any member of the committee or a subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

CALLING AND INTERROGATING WITNESSES

(d)(1) Committee and subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the chairman of the committee or subcommittee for that purpose, and only for a 5-minute period until all members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The 5-minute period for questioning a witness by any one member may be extended only with the unanimous consent of all members present. The questioning of witnesses in both committee and subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the chairman, followed by the ranking minority party member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of the majority.

(2) So far as practicable, each witness who is to appear before the committee or a subcommittee shall file with the clerk of the committee, at least 48 hours in advance of the appearance of the witness, a written statement of the testimony of the witness and shall limit any oral presentation to a summary of the written statement.

(3) When a hearing is conducted by the committee or a subcommittee on any measure or matter, the minority party members on the committee shall be entitled, upon request to the chairman, of a majority of those minority members before the completion of

the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of the hearing thereon.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROCEEDINGS

(e) Any meeting of the committee or its subcommittees that is open to the public shall be open to coverage by radio, television, and still photography in accordance with the provisions of clause 3 of House rule XI.

SUBPOENAS

(f) Pursuant to clause 2(m) of House rule XI, a subpoena may be authorized and issued by the committee or a subcommittee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present.

RULE 3—GENERAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY

(a) In order to assist the House in:

(1) Its analysis, appraisal, evaluation of (A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of the laws enacted by the Congress, or (B) conditions and circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation, and

(2) its formulation, consideration and enactment of such modifications or changes in those laws, and of such additional legislation, as may be necessary or appropriate, the committee and its various subcommittees, consistent with their jurisdiction as set forth in Rule 4, shall have oversight responsibilities as provided in subsection (b).

(b)(1) The committee and its subcommittees shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the applications, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of the committee or subcommittee, and the organization and operation of the Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities in or for the administration and execution thereof, in order to determine whether such laws and the programs thereunder are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the Congress and whether such programs should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated.

(2) In addition, the committee and its subcommittees shall review and study any conditions or circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation within the jurisdiction of the committee or subcommittee (whether or not any bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto), and shall on a continuing basis undertake future research and forecasting on matters within the jurisdiction of the committee or subcommittee.

(3) Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the committee shall meet in open session, with a quorum present, to adopt its oversight plans for that Congress for submission to the Committee on House Oversight and the Committee on Government

Reform and Oversight, in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(d) of House rule X.

RULE 4—SUBCOMMITTEES

ESTABLISHMENT AND JURISDICTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES

(a)(1) There shall be three subcommittees of the committee as follows:

(A) **Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care**, which shall have legislative, oversight and investigative jurisdiction over veterans' hospitals, medical care, and treatment of veterans.

(B) **Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension, Insurance and Memorial Affairs**, which shall have legislative, oversight and investigative jurisdiction over compensation, pensions of all the wars of the United States, general and special, life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Forces, and cemeteries of the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or maybe buried, whether in the United States or abroad, except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, and burial benefits.

(C) **Subcommittee on Education, Training, Employment and Housing**, which shall have legislative, oversight and investigative jurisdiction over education of veterans, vocational rehabilitation, veterans' housing programs, and readjustment of servicemen to civilian life.

In addition, each subcommittee shall have responsibility for such other measures or matters as the chairman refers to it.

(2) Any vacancy in the membership of a subcommittee shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the functions of that subcommittee.

REFERRAL TO SUBCOMMITTEES

(b)(1) The chairman of the committee may refer a measure or matter, which is within the general responsibility of more than one of the subcommittees of the committee, jointly or exclusively as the chairman deems appropriate.

(2) In referring any measure or matter to a subcommittee, the chairman of the committee may specify a date by which the subcommittee shall report thereon to the committee.

POWERS AND DUTIES

(c)(1) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the full committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective subcommittees after consultation with the chairman of the committee and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings wherever possible.

(2) Whenever a subcommittee has ordered a bill, resolution, or other matter to be reported to the committee, the chairman of the subcommittee reporting the bill, resolution, or matter to the full

committee, or any member authorized by the subcommittee to do so, may report such bill, resolution, or matter to the committee. It shall be the duty of the chairman of the subcommittee to report or cause to be reported promptly such bill, resolution, or matter, and to take or cause to be taken the necessary steps to bring such bill, resolution, or matter to a vote.

(3) In any event, the report of any subcommittee on a measure which has been approved by the subcommittee shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the clerk of the committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the subcommittee, for the reporting of that measure. Upon the filing of any request, the clerk of the committee shall transmit immediately to the chairman of the subcommittee notice of the filing of that request.

(4) A member of the committee who is not a member of a particular subcommittee may sit with the subcommittee during any of its meetings and hearings, but shall not have authority to vote, cannot be counted for a quorum, and cannot raise a point of order at the meeting or hearing.

(d) Each subcommittee of the committee shall provide the committee with copies of such records of votes taken in the subcommittee and such other records with respect to the subcommittee as the chairman of the committee deems necessary for the committee to comply with all rules and regulations of the House.

RULE 5—TRANSCRIPTS AND RECORDS

(a)(1) There shall be a transcript made of each regular meeting and hearing of the committee and its subcommittees. Any such transcript shall be a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved.

(2) The committee shall keep a record of all actions of the committee and each of its subcommittees. The record shall contain all information required by clause 2(e)(1) of House rule XI and shall be available for public inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the committee.

(3) The records of the committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with House rule XXXVI. The chairman shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the committee for a determination on written request of any member of the committee.